

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system and method for controlling UNIX group access using an LDAP
directory are disclosed. The system and method may be used to overcome a limitation on
the size of groups that may be encountered in certain UNIX-based operating systems. A
directory may be populated with entries for each of a plurality of users. Each entry in the
directory may include information such as a user ID, user password, one or more group
names, and optionally one or more hostnames. One or more access control lists may be
10 generated from the directory entries. The operating system may check the access control
list(s) to restrict access to the appropriate files or directories (i.e., data sources). For each
data source which permits access by a particular group name, access may be granted to
the data source to the users in the appropriate group access control list. Likewise, access
may be denied to users who are not listed in the appropriate group access control list and
15 who are not otherwise entitled to access (e.g., are not an owner of the data source).
Access may include, for example, read, write, and/or execute access.